

Routes to tour in Germany

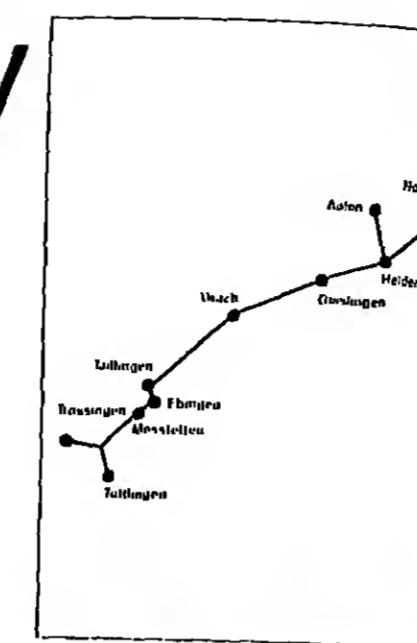
The Swabian Alb Route

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- 1 View of the Hegau region, near Tuttlingen
- 2 Heidenheim
- 3 Nördlingen
- 4 Urach
- 5 Hohenzollern Castle

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Honecker in Bonn: there's no turning back the clock now

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

The dam seems to be bursting. East Berlin abolishes the death penalty and declares an amnesty; Bonn announces that the cash handout visitors from East Germany receive is to be raised from 50 marks to 100.

One town after another twins with a town in the other German state; the (West German) SPD and the (East German) SED agree to talk about "opening up systems"; and, last but not least, East Berlin leader Erich Honecker is given a full-scale welcome in Bonn.

The SED general secretary was hustled by the Federal President and Chancellor in Bonn and welcomed with even greater ceremony by several state premiers.

After this protocol upgrading he paid a sentimental journey to the Saar, where he was born and grew up, to his parents' grave and to the birthplaces of Karl Marx in Trier and Friedrich Engels in Wuppertal.

Carefully guarded, Herr Honecker in the flesh remained remote from the

breathtaking, pragmatic volte-face of which only conservatives are capable before holding "frank and objective" talks with the SED leader.

Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker paved the way for the visit while himself on a state visit to Moscow. Chancellor Kohl performed with aplomb his duties as a host to the East German leader.

This point might not have been worth making had it been the Federal President. Herr von Weizsäcker can be relied on to acquit himself well of such duties. But the Chancellor could be seen in TV to cut a less convincing figure in difficult intra-German terrain.

He demonstrated for all to see that Christian Democrats have endorsed the

initial results of Herr Honecker's visit. Herr Kohl and his government can justify the protocol upgrading of Herr Honecker and East Germany with reference to the truly impressive statistics on travel between the two German states. By the end of August over three million East Germans had visited the Federal Republic. By the year's end roughly 1.2 million below pensionable age will have visited the West. Both Herr Kohl and Herr Honecker

expressly pledged themselves to encouraging the trend. Nowadays we may feel such figures to be a matter of course, but they were beyond the reach of Social and Free Democratic coalition governments in Bonn.

Minister of State Schiessle of the Chancellor's Office was wise to warn against too great expectations. Apart from a few small gifts by the East Germans at the talks there were no major surprises.

East Berlin clearly expects substantial assistance from Bonn in modernising sections of its railway system, in desulphurising static emission by brown-coal fired furnaces and in renewing its



Chancellor Honecker (left) and Kohl.
(Photo: Sven Simon)

industrial base. Falling Western aid, many major projects are bound either to fail or to be postponed from one year to the next.

Herr Honecker can be sure that photographs showing him with Herr von Weizsäcker and Herr Kohl in Bonn will not fail to have their effect.

He may now aim to visit Washington, London and Paris — and he can be sure of a reception in all three Western Allied capitals.

He will be able to welcome the Federal

Continued on page 5

Deals signed on environment and technology

Ministers from the two German states have signed in Bonn three agreements aimed at intensifying intra-German cooperation in science and technology, environmental protection, and radiation protection and reactor safety. All three agreements include West Berlin.

The environmental protection agreement was signed by Environment Ministers Töpfer and Reichelt. Professor Töpfer said it laid the groundwork for cooperation in all sectors of environmental protection.

A working plan extending till 1989 provides for cooperation on atmospheric pollution, water protection, waste disposal and tree deaths.

"We will concentrate mainly on measures at the source of pollution, especially in areas of East Germany from which pollution reaches us," he said.

In talks with Herr Reichelt he had discussed problems relating to desalina-

tion of the Werra, water protection measures for the Elbe, issues relating to the East German waste depot in Schönberg near Lübeck, and proposals to set up joint nature conservation areas.

The agreement on radiation protection provides for reciprocal information on peaceful uses of atomic energy, on monitoring of radiation and nuclear installations and on final storage of radioactive waste.

The terms of the agreement will include information about the East German nuclear waste depot in Bartenbleben.

The agreement on scientific cooperation was signed by Federal Research and Technology Minister Heinz Riesenhuber and East Berlin Science and Technology Minister Herbert Weiz.

Herr Riesenhuber said the agreement was to be seen as a sign to scientists that they could now go ahead in earnest with cooperation with East Germany.

He was expecting research scientists and technicians to show initiative and submit proposals for further cooperation.

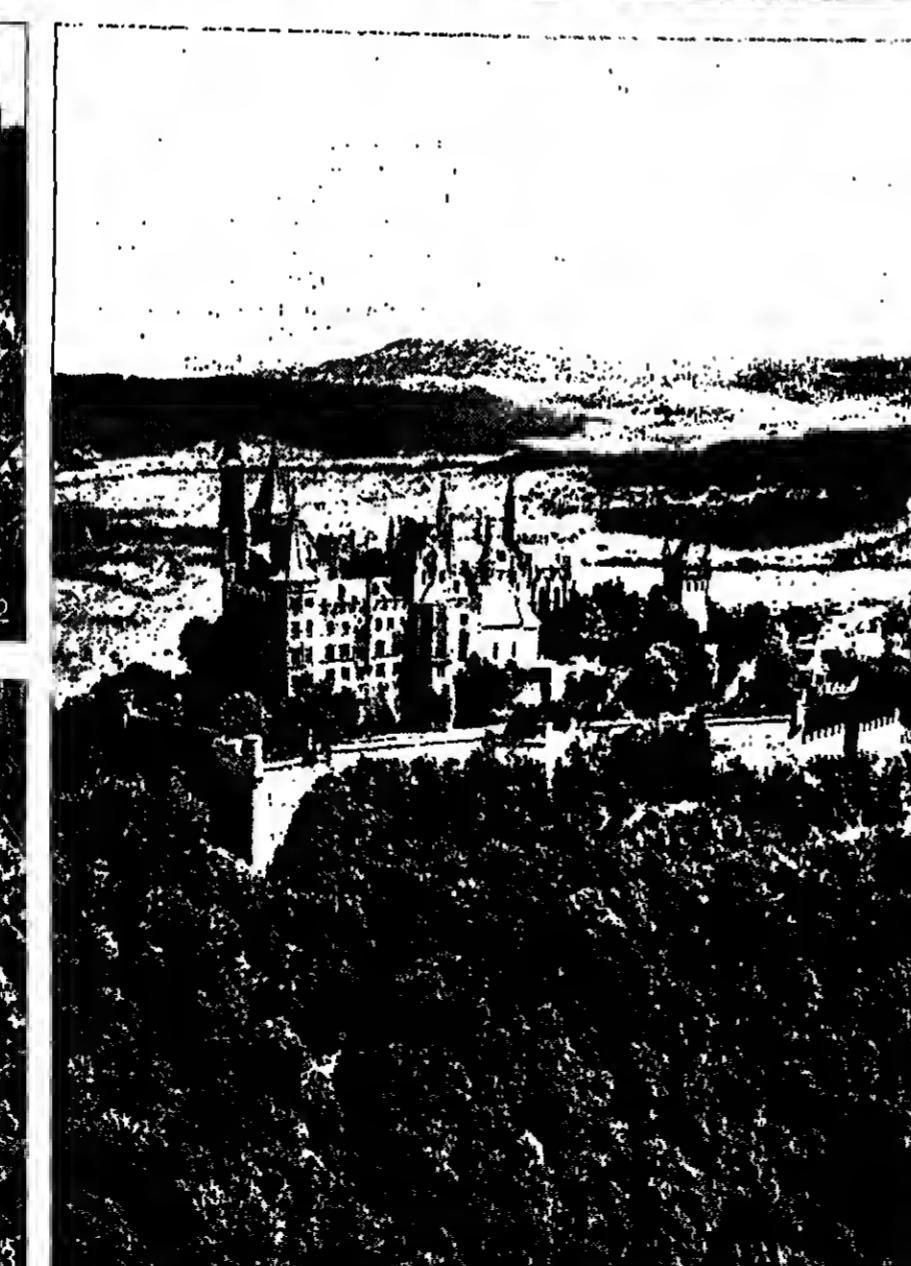
He was confident that the intensification of technological contact would give economic ties a boost.

Scientific cooperation will comprise 27 projects in an initial list. They include energy and materials research, production techniques and medicine.

Medical cooperation will include such topical issues as Aids and cancer research.

dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 4 September 1987)



■ GERMANY

Europeans look closely at what Honecker visit means

Did Erich Honecker's visit to Bonn mark an end or a beginning in Germany, a chance or a chimera for Europe?

When two German flags flew outside the Chancellor's Office in Bonn many will have felt that their last dreams were blowing in the wind.

Not even those who have realised since the two German states signed the 1972 Basic Treaty that this official encounter was bound to come sooner or later would have taken in this sight with equanimity.

Even they will have felt a painful reminder, as Helmut Kohl and Erich Honecker shook hands, of the facts on which the new Deutschlandpolitik is inevitably based.

Seldom can rituals such as the playing of two German anthems in succession have weighed as heavily as on this occasion.

Oddly enough, neither anthem has retained its first verse. We in the West divested ourselves after the war of the verse in which Germany is proclaimed to extend from the Meuse to the Memel.

Never again did we want to be misunderstood as associating ourselves with fantasies of a Greater Germany *über alles*. These were fantasies that plunged the world into the misery of war and led to the division of Germany.

East German leaders grew steadily more dissatisfied with the all-German hopes embodied in the first verse of their anthem, with its refrain "Germany, united fatherland."

So the suppressed first verses of the two anthems stand for historical trial and error. They both fail to answer the crucial question as to Germany's future.

It is a question that has preoccupied neighbouring countries too. The *International Herald Tribune* wrote that people in Europe and America could be excused for feeling uneasy about the intra-German summit.

Reunification is nowhere felt to be a real prospect or risk, but the two German states' rapprochement triggered universal amazement and alarm.

Rapprochement was, perhaps, the European keyword, with worried neighbours wondering whether we are on the way forward to a new German routine or on the way back to riddles of old.

The French in particular have been brooding, from end to end of the political spectrum. They talk in terms of a new *germanophanie*, an expression reminiscent of *francophonie*, the term for French-speaking countries outside France.

Few French commentators have been as forthright as former Foreign Minister Michel Jobert, who suspects the Germans of aiming at establishing a degree of freedom in relations with America and Europe.

"Germany intends to go its own way in Central Europe," he said. "It is a nation that thinks it can do a deal with the Soviet Union, bearing in mind the economic strength and present prosperity of the Federal Republic, and buy-back its unity in one form or another."

Another former Foreign Minister, Jean-François Poncelet, converted his opinion of the Germans into a warning to the Americans.

Moscow, he said, was trying via intra-German relations to exert pressure on

the Federal Republic and drive a wedge between the Germans and the Europeans and Americans.

These endeavours came up against the Federal Republic's firm roots in the West, but a denuclearisation of Europe and a reduction in US troop strength might one day lead to West Germans seeking in the East the security guarantees the West no longer had to offer.

Even the left-wing daily *Liberation* has taken to warning the Germans' erstwhile "American godfather" that there are growing doubts as to the solidarity of the US shield.

True enough, any changes in relations between the superpowers are seen by Europeans in terms of what is felt to be a German risk.

In the missile modernisation context there were worries about neutralism among German left-wingers; German right-wing resistance to the double zero solution worries others with its connotations of nationalism.

What, they wonder, if the two trends join forces at some stage? The pressure of European visions of this kind may vary, but there are no signs that it may vanish.

When the Germans were united in Bismarck's nation-state they were troubled by nightmare visions of alliances forged against them. Many Europeans, or so *Le Figaro* says, now feel the vision of German unity is a nightmare.

Official political rhetoric takes good care, in neighbouring countries, not to engage in too much plain speaking about the German situation.

Seldom does anyone go as far as François Mitterrand, who once admitted: "I love Germany so much that I am happy there are two of it" — or Italy's Gianni Spadolini.

DIE ZEIT

Ilo Andreatto, who said in 1984: "There are two German states, and let there remain two of them."

But there can be no doubt whatever that everyone shares this view, especially in connection with Herr Honecker's visit to Bonn.

We Germans in contrast are bound to feel this European speculation is most strange, coming when it does. We experienced the East German leader's visit as a ritualisation, not a revision, of the division of Germany.

In visiting the West Herr Honecker sought first and foremost to complete the legitimisation of his East German state. Who could seriously believe there might be any possibility of ever negotiating with an SED leader about the liquidation of his fiefdom?

The policies pursued by the Bonn and East Berlin governments give no cause for nightmares. The modest hopes placed in the visit (and largely fulfilled in advance) do our neighbours no harm. Yet we must take their alarm seriously because it is based to no more than the slightest degree on current events.

Fine words about reunification may trigger amazement here and there, but they count for little or nothing, which cannot be said of the historic and structural reasons for malaise.

The shock of two world wars is not too remote for German policies to enjoy

from the outset the credit of absolute normality.

As long as we hold debates, such as the one conducted by historians last year, in which a number of publicists and politicians seek to relativise and intellectually normalise the past, we cannot expect to be credited with normality.

No matter how the German situation has progressed since the emergence of nation-states in Europe, and no matter what shape it may take in years to come, it will never be viewed with less than special attention.

Both the Federal Republic and East Germany now rank second in their respective ranks, both of which were partly set up to ensure that they toed the line.

Any idea of change, particularly of a merger of their territorial, political and economic potential, could not fail to alarm their neighbours.

German reunification would be bound, in European eyes (and thus in ours too), to entail reversion to the condition that led to Germany's division.

It was a state of affairs in which a united Germany as a central European power was viewed with suspicion by its neighbours, who set up alliances to help restore the shaky balance of power.

What follows from this realisation, for Germans and for Europeans?

Where the Germans are concerned, Europe must always be more important than whatever shape the German nation takes. There must be no progress for Germany at Europe's expense.

The Federal Republic can only afford to pursue intra-German rapprochement in the interest of Germans everywhere provided it continues to press for European integration, both in Western Europe and closer ties between Western and Eastern Europe.

Herr Honecker, accompanied by his sister, paid no attention to the leaflets the police did not intervene.

He and his sister spent just a few minutes at the black marble grave with inscription "Wilhelm Honecker and his wife".

Herr Honecker did not visit the graves for the funerals of his mother Käte, who died in 1963, or his father Willi, who died in 1969.

Dieter Borkowski, author of a biography entitled "Erich Honecker — Sozialist oder German Patriot?", had a simple plan for this.

In this participation we must never, and certainly not in the purported interest of the other Germans, succumb to the wrong choice between the reality of Western Europe and unclarified ideas of a mythical Central Europe.

On the afternoon of his visit an anonymous caller phoned the police with a bomb threat. But a "bag with incendiary contents" found outside the cemetery proved to be harmless.

When Herr Honecker drove from the cemetery into Wieselskirchen and his parental home he was welcomed by about 40 Communists with red flags. But otherwise there was little excitement.

A lone leaflet distributor in front of Kuehnenbergstrasse 88 was taken into temporary police custody. His leaflet accused Herr Honecker of aiding and abetting.

Continued on page 4

As for the Europeans, if their policies are further nationalised and progressively take the shape of national egoism the process will be one that cannot fail to extend to the Federal Republic too.

Yet the profit to be earned from national provincialism is surely less than the dividends paid by cooperation. What is more, France in particular must rethink its security policy.

Neither in Europe's interest nor in its own can France afford to wallow in doubt about both the Americans and the Germans — and to project the resulting dilemma at the Germans.

Herr Honecker's visit to Bonn, both an end to illusion and a platform for hope, does not entail a clash between German opportunities and European worries.

That is to say, it does not do so unless everyone refuses to realise that German worries also entail European opportunities.

Robert Leicht

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 11 September 1987)

Wiebelskirchen finds it all a bit of a yaw!

Wiebelskirchen, population 10,000, was largely unmoved by the visit of its best-known native son, East German leader Erich Honecker.

A few demonstrators waved red flags welcome. Others distributed leaflets and waved banners protesting against the Berlin Wall.

Both were the exception. Erich Honecker's first visit for 40 years to the town where he was born 75 years ago, failed to create a stir among local residents.

Most will probably have been relieved that it was all over — even though Herr Honecker spent less than an hour there.

He was six minutes at the family grave and 24 minutes in his parental home Kuehnenbergstrasse 88, with his sister Gertrud Hoppefueller.

His visit to Wiebelskirchen, classified as strictly private by the official East German delegation, began at 5.10 p.m. outside the cemetery, which had been sealed off by the police since the early morning.

Herr Honecker arrived in an armoured Mercedes 600 to visit the grave of his parents, who died in the 1960s.

There was a minor incident when the young NPD supporters threw a parcel of leaflets protesting against the Berlin Wall at the car.

Herr Honecker, accompanied by his sister, paid no attention to the leaflets. The police did not intervene.

He and his sister spent just a few minutes at the black marble grave with inscription "Wilhelm Honecker and his wife".

Herr Honecker did not visit the graves for the funerals of his mother Käte, who died in 1963, or his father Willi, who died in 1969.

It is worth noting that Bremen voters in general would have nothing to do with right-wing extremist groups, but the lone DVP councillor from Bremerhaven is one too many.

Bodo Schulte (Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 14 September 1987)

Premier sues magazine over smear-campaign allegations

The Social Democrats retained their absolute majority in Bremen and emerged as the biggest single party in Schleswig-Holstein. In Bremen, the Christian Democrats performed disastrously, dropping almost 10 percentage points and plunging from 37 seats to 25. In Schleswig-Holstein, they also lost heavily, but will retain power together with the Free Democrats, who are re-elected in both assemblies after a time without any representation. The Schleswig-Holstein election was marred by allegations of a smear campaign against the state's SPD leader, Björn Engholm, which is said to have been ordered by the state Premier, Uwe Barschel (CDU). The allegations appeared in the weekly magazine *Der Spiegel*, which Barschel has sued. In Bremen, a right-wing extremist group, Liste D, has won a seat for the first time ever in the city-state. Although the party received only 3.4 per cent of the vote in Bremen itself, it got more than 5 per cent in neighbouring Bremerhaven, enough under a local arrangement, to get a member into the assembly. Results: SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN: CDU 42.6 per cent, 33 seats (1983: 49 per cent, 39 seats); SPD 45.2, 36 (34, 37); Greens 3.9, 0 (3.6, 0); FDP 5.2, 4 (2.2, 0); SSW (Danish-oriented party) 1.5, 1 (1.3, 1); DKP (Communist) 0.2, 0 (0.1, 0); others 1.3, 0 (0, 0). Turnout, 76.6 per cent (85). BREMEN: SPD 50.5 per cent, 54 seats (1983: 51.35 per cent, 58 seats); CDU 23.44, 25 (33, 31, 37); Greens 10.22, 10 (15, 4.5, 5); FDP 10.01, 10 (4.59, 0); Liste D 3.4, 1 (0, 0); others 5.77, 0 (1.4, 0). Turnout, 75.74 per cent (79.66).



Premier Barschel (left) and SPD challenger Engholm just after the smear-campaign charge had become known.

(Photo: AP)

national trends alone cannot be blamed. The CDU's nosedive to the brink of insignificance is partly the result of a lack of ideas and a leadership policy favouring colourless candidates.

There can be no doubt that the Free Democrats derived benefit from the weakness of the CDU and its candidates in staging their superb comeback to the city council.

Mayor Klaus Wedemeier should have no difficulty in running the city's affairs. He and the FDP agree on a number of points, and he won't have to rely on the support of the Greens, who also improved their strength on the council.

Substantial CDU losses were at least partly offset by FDP gains, with the result that CDU Premier Uwe Barschel should be able to stay in office at the head of a coalition government in Kiel.

Herr Barschel has taken a *Holzbus* survived to face another day.

Now the CDU likes to withstand the storm in Schleswig-Holstein. The Christian Democrats have retained their absolute majority in the Bundesrat, or Upper House of the Bonn Bundestag.

If power had changed hands in Kiel the CDU/CSU would still have commanded a majority in the Bundesrat, but the CDU would have had to rely on the support of its Bavarian ally, the CSU.

Now the voting is over in Schleswig-Holstein the strange outcome is that while the result has stabilised the CDU-CSU-FDP coalition in Bonn it may exert a detrimental influence on relations between the coalition partners.

The Christian Democrats will face an even more self-assured FDP that has unquestionably benefited from the infighting between CDU and CSU.

There can be no doubt whatever that the constant bickering between Helmut Kohl and Franz Josef Strauss annoyed voters in Schleswig-Holstein and Bremen.

It is hard to say whether final-phase mudslinging and accusations levelled at Christian Democratic Premier Uwe Barschel upset CDU voters in Schleswig-Holstein.

The silly season in Bonn, with its disputes over tax-reform, Chile and Pershing missiles cast a long shadow on both elections.

No-one can say for sure whether the accusation that Premier Barschel hired private detectives to snoop on Opposition SPD leader Björn Engholm influenced the election result in Schleswig-Holstein.

The result in Bremen, where the CDU suffered even heavier losses than in Schleswig-Holstein, would seem to indicate that the influence of such accusations on voter behaviour is greatly overstated.

What came as a surprise in Bremen was less the SPD's successful defence of its absolute majority than the catastrophic decline in CDU support, for which

Herr Barschel's moves in his own defence were equally bad. He and his supporters would have to resign if they were found to be true. It would then have done him no good to file charges against those making the accusations.

In retrospect that would seem only to have been an attempt to save his bacon by returning fire with blanks.

The evidence so far presented by Herr Pfeiffer and printed by *Der Spiegel* is not sufficiently convincing.

It stands and falls with how one assesses the personality of the man who

was hired to think out campaign strategies for Premier Barschel, to whom, he says, he eventually no longer owed any allegiance.

Herr Barschel's moves in his own defence carry just as little conviction. He has accused *Der Spiegel* of being unfair and of not having consulted him first.

The magazine says that simply isn't true. It says he was consulted but he had refused to comment. It is hard to imagine *Der Spiegel* making such a mistake on such a delicate matter.

Yet the alternative is equally hard to imagine.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 14 September 1987)

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 14 September 1987)

Results will put Chancellor Kohl under heavier pressure

Chancellor Kohl will now have an even harder time of

■ POLITICS

CDU moves to embrace a new populism — and takes some electoral risks

Chancellor Kohl's decision to allow the Bundeswehr's Pershing 1A missiles to be negotiated away as part of an overall disarmament deal in Geneva has brought him right into the firing line.

He has been vigorously attacked by his Bavarian coalition partners, the CSU; the FDP, although knocking him, has been taking shots at him behind his back.

The Free Democrats are saying, not quite so loudly now as at first, that the Chancellor has done little more than take up their own idea.

The CSU are angry at not having first been consulted. What rubbed salt in the wound was the largely confirmed suspicion that the FDP leaders had been.

Surface tensions inaccurately reflect turbulence below the surface. Long-standing differences between the CSU leader, Franz Josef Strauss, and Helmut Kohl and between the CSU and the FDP are back on the boil.

They have been joined by growing tension between the Chancellor's CDU and Herr Strauss's CSU and by the Chancellor's growing mistrust of the party being played by the FDP in the Bonn coalition.

The Free Democrats are almost constantly clashing with the CSU and ought to side with the Chancellor, yet on minor issues they almost ignore him and join in overt or covert attacks on his authority.

One such issue was whether demonstrators at rallies should be allowed to wear clothing that can be classified as a mask or disguise. It was an issue on which they hit out hard at the CDU leader at their party conference in Kiel.

This move may be dismissed as electioneering (the conference was held just before the Schleswig-Holstein state assembly elections), but there may be more to it than that.

The CDU and CSU are their own worst enemies, while with personal unity between Herr Kohl and Herr Strauss and the dispute over the general direction of policy that has been smouldering between the two parties for some time.

CDU general secretary Heiner Geissler's policy line of an opening to the left of centre is seen in Munich, and not only there, as an unprincipled acceptance of the *Zeitgeist* and a kowtow toward fashionable trends in democracy.

Too many formerly entrenched CDU

Continued from page 2
abetting the murder of East German refugees.

The East Berlin leader and his motorcade drew up in front of his parental home, painted an unassuming pale green, at 5.21 p.m. A few onlookers applauded, others catcalled.

Herr Honecker shook hands with a few people on his side of the police barricades and then went inside for coffee and a chat with his sister.

They came out into the garden for a moment for the benefit of TV cameras perched on the church tower.

He may have recalled a walk round the garden as a seven-year-old in which his father had first tried to explain to him, beneath an apple tree, the difference between capitalism and socialism.

(*Kieler Nachrichten*, 11 September 1987)

Frankfurter Allgemeine

stances have been abandoned in recent years for this accusation to appear entirely unfounded. The new populism continues to make headway, much to the annoyance of many CDU veterans.

These disputes are barely restrained by the natural constraint on an ideologically multi-coloured coalition to reach agreement. Political differences are too deep for that to be possible.

Herr Geissler's policy of an opening to the left is based not on a spontaneous idea but on a strategic idea. It is aimed at gaining voter support in the shifting sands of Germans who claim allegiance to emancipation and progress.

Many risks are being run. The pattern of CDU voter support could be changed. But disappointed old-style supporters whose allegiance is lost might, so the hope is, be more than compensated for by gains from the left. This is a speculative hope, to say the least.

To outsiders there seem to be increasing signs that a more realistic view of the trend is held in Munich, even though the CSU's strong words of warning may frequently make the opposite appear the case.

It is not just that the CDU, with its change of course, is abandoning a right-wing stance to which a number of new groups have promptly sought to stake their claim.

Herr Geissler's grand strategic design is no longer accurate in that he assumes the two sides of the political spectrum will consist, for at least the next five years, of the SPD and the Greens on the one hand and the conservative parties on the other.

If that were so, it might be worthwhile trying to persuade disappointed voters on the other side, particularly supporters of ex-Chancellor Schmidt, to switch allegiance to the CDU.

But Willy Brandt is no longer at the SPD's helm, and he was the mainspring for the establishment of coalitions between the SPD and the Greens.

Besides, the Greens are in the throes of infighting and increasingly subject to the whims of a fickle electoral market.

For some time, to wit, since their support decline in Hamburg last May, they have appeared to be manacled by an invisible hand. They present a downcast, despairing and unimaginative picture. They appear steadily less important.

FDP riding high at centre of the spectrum

In switching allegiance from Helmut Schmidt and the Social Democrats to Helmut Kohl and the Christian Democrats in Bonn in 1982 the FDP switched coalition partners and voter support, as it did in the past.

FDP leader Martin Bangemann, Economic Affairs Minister in Bonn, has arguably grown a little too self-confident and prone to proclaim 1987 the Year of the Liberals after the Schleswig-Holstein and Bremen state assembly elections.

The Free Democrats confidently expect to be returned to both assemblies. FDP general secretary Helmut Haussmann already has visions of the "party of individualists" boosting its electoral support to 15 per cent in the years ahead.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher had similar visions some years ago.

The Free Democrats are understandably jubilant, but will their luck hold, given their limited electoral support (and much greater political influence) and record of political brinkmanship?

Is not fair to say that they owe their success to the others' weakness rather than to their own strength?

In the 1970s the Free Democrats tried hard to present themselves as a party with a programme of its own, yet despite distinctive policies their support was never sufficient to enable them to sleep easily.

On more than one occasion they owed their power and survival to the fact that one or other of the major parties needed their coalition support to form a government.

The FDP today is no more convincing than it was in the 1970s where policies are concerned. Where manpower is concerned it is clearly weaker.

Ludwig Hartung
(*Hannoversche Allgemeine*, 7 September 1987)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Ten years since German terrorism claimed its most notable victim

It was ten years ago, on September 5 1977, that West Germany's wave of terror attacks by the left-wing RAF (Red Army Faction) came to a dramatic climax.

No matter how keen the CDU's Helmut Geissler, Labour Minister Ulrich Meinhoff and Health Minister Süssmuth may be to embody the *Zeitgeist*, the voters who support them seek to enlist will be their old party, the SPD, as soon as they feel they can reasonably do so. That, clearly, is sooner, not later.

It is not just that the CDU, with its change of course, is abandoning a right-wing stance to which a number of new groups have promptly sought to stake their claim.

Herr Strauss is undeniably a t

man to handle and an inconveni

ent for today's CDU, but there can be

gainsaying that the existence of both

counts for a substantial proportion

of potential CDU voter allegiance.

The policy of reciprocal snubs the

is currently practised weighs heavily

on their supporters and encourages

the trend toward "internal emigration".

Unless the CDU and CSU in general

and their respective leaders in particular, change the style of dealing with each other and coordinate their political strategy more effectively, they will not hold on to the reins of power for long.

They stand to jointly forfeit power

and power once lost will be lost for

some time.

Foto: Ulfhett Falk

(*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Deutschland, 7 September 1987)

coalitions to the brink of confrontation.

There will be no change in this respect in the wake of the FDP's Kiel party conference, at which it strenuously and justifiably resisted CSU demands for longer legislation on protest demonstrations.

It remains to be seen whether Mr Bangemann's bold conjecture will be true and the two major parties break up because their stay is over at large numbers of "sensible" people join the Liberals, the "party of commonsense."

For the time being such speculations mere wishful thinking.

What is true is that the two major parties are in the throes of a crisis because the sociological structure of their electoral support is changing, traditionalities are growing less binding and voters are responding with greater flexibility and mobility.

The Free Democrats are so remote from the Social Democrats today that they only mention the marriage of convenience with the SPD in Hamburg when there is no chance of avoiding the issue.

They seem motivated by a tacit fear that Hamburg could be held against them as yet another instance of a turncoat FDP.

Herr Bangemann and Count Lambsdorff, Economic Affairs Minister under Helmut Schmidt, are drawing a clearer and usual distinction between the Free Democrats and the SPD.

No-one can begrudge a party success that is based on its own achievements. But the Free Democrats would be misleading themselves if they were to overlook the fact that in recent years they have benefited from both fears of SPD-Green coalitions and the constant jibes made by jealous Franz Josef Strauss.

His CSU has always been an ideal vote-winner for the FDP because it is never satisfied with coalition terms and always makes extra demands that take

their choice, or else they would kill Schleyer. They named Yemen, Somalia and Vietnam as possible destinations.

The events of the following weeks were to hold West Germany, as well as other countries, in the grip of a feverish suspense. Despite receiving many clues from the public, the authorities kept running into blind alleys.

Later it turned out that the police had overlooked one of the hottest tips they had received. A courageous motorist had followed a suspicious looking VW bus to a highway ramp. If his description of the bus had been followed up, it would most probably have led to Schleyer's temporary "prison" in a Cologne skyscraper.

Instead of having a dramatic rescue, the kidnapping turned into drawn-out negotiations between the Federal Criminal Investigation Office and the RAF, with the occasional involvement of a dubious Swiss lawyer.

Regularly delivered videos taken of Schleyer and hand-written letters from him proved to the government that he was still alive. However the negotiations didn't gain any ground for the kidnappers or for the Government, which wanted to rescue Schleyer's life but couldn't afford to give into the kidnappers' demands.

The situation remained unchanged until 13 October when three Arab men and one woman hijacked a German Lufthansa Boeing 707 on its way from Palma de Majorca to Frankfurt.

The hijackers forced the jet to fly to Dubai via Rome. After they landed there they shot the captain, Jürgen Schumann. They were demanding the release of RAF prisoners, and two of their own comrades imprisoned in Turkey.

This has remained the only time that the RAF managed to coordinate effectively an international effort in their so-called anti-imperialist struggle.

The jet finally landed in Münich. Both the 82 passengers and the five-man crew went through the ordeal of waiting while the hijackers negotiated by radio with Hans Wischniowski, a

Continued from page 1

President and Chancellor in East Germany before long. In return he has made certain commitments on ties with Bonn.

The price he has had to pay for equal treatment will make it hard for future East Berlin leaders to turn the clock back and impose fresh restrictions on the extent of cooperation now agreed by Bonn and East Berlin.

The Berlin Wall is still intact, as ugly as ever, and despite any assistance Bonn has been able to provide, life in East Germany continues to be dull and gloomy.

Herr Honecker's Bonn visit was not a last-minute reprieve for world peace either, despite the impression the East German leader sought to give. Tenacity and a sober, level-headed approach continue to be advisable.

The way Herr Kohl and Herr Honecker made no bones about the points on which they differ but the points they hold in common was more than impressive.

One is tempted to recall the discredited term "detente." It truly was a historic working visit.

Adriin Ziecke

(*Stuttgarter Zeitung*, 9 September 1987)



44 days of captivity, and then daath... Hanna-Martin Schleyer.
(Photo: dpa)

West German minister who enjoyed a good reputation among Arabs in general.

The West Germans had obtained permission from the Somalian president to use their own *Greuzschutzgruppe* to storm the aircraft.

It was Wischniowski's task to stall the hijackers while the commando unit got ready to storm the aircraft.

He talked and talked, with the result that the aggressive Arabs gradually became worn down.

Shortly before the midnight on 18 October, the specially trained commandos followed up a diversionary manoeuvre with the storming of the aircraft. With the exception of the woman, all the Arabs were shot dead.

Events now happened in rapid succession. In the Stammheim top security prison Ettusin, Baader and Raspe, heard about the Mugadishu failure and committed suicide with pistols smuggled into their cells.

Then, the following day, the body of the 62 year-old Hanna-Martin Schleyer was found in the boot of a car in a quiet residential street in Müllhausen.

He had been in captivity 44 days and had been finished with a bullet through the base of the skull. The details of where and under which circumstances he was murdered have still to be cleared up. The body count at the end of this terrorist drama amounted to 13 dead.

Following Schleyer's death the criminal investigators were given the green light. The authorities had eleven pictures on television and in the papers of people suspected of having been involved in 62 year-old's kidnapping.

But it took a long time, before the hunt had any success. Most of the terrorists were caught and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The terrorists' attempt to blackmail ran around on the government's resolve not to give in. Since then a similar operation of this kind has not been attempted.

The RAF is still active and draws new recruits from the left-wing sources. They still try to spring imprisoned members, but have had no success.

They have a new death list and have struck again. In fact, 1986 rivalled 1977 as Year of the Terrorist. Karry, the Hesse Economics Minister and Beckurts, the industrialist, were assassinated. So was liberal diplomat von Braunmühl.

So the group still poses a serious challenge to the democratic constitutional state.

Günther Leicher

(*Allgemeine Zeitung*, Mainz, 4 September 1987)

AUSSEN POLITIK

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■ GERMAN-GERMAN TRADE

Asian competition, Soviet pressure, hurting East

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

Pressure from the Soviet Union and competition from the Far East are hitting East Germany's trade with West Germany.

East Germany had been earning a lot of foreign currency exporting clothing, textiles and items such as beer, toy dolls and refrigerators to West Germany.

But Far Eastern products are making their mark. They are better designed, better adjusted to market requirements, and their delivery dates are better.

In addition, the Soviet Union is now trying to get East Germany to cut the Soviet bilateral deficit by exporting to it — and the Russians want those very products that sell best in the West.

This is why the complaint by the West German textiles industry that jobs will be lost if the East Germans are given any more import concessions is not to be taken too seriously.

Last year East Germany did not even use its textile quotas to the full — not by a long shot. The days when East Germany could supply West Germany with cheap shirts, women's tights, bed sheets, writing materials, refrigerators, toy dolls and beer are over.

East Germany's exports to the Federal Republic of finished textiles, together with garments, the most important item in intra-German trade, dropped by four per cent in 1986. This compares with a growth in 1984 of 14 per cent.

The situation has changed so much that the amount of West German textiles and garments being exported to East Germany is very slightly on the increase.

A sixth of the imports by the department store chain of Hertie come from East Germany. In 1983 purchases increased by 30 per cent and in 1984 by 40 per cent, but now the order figure is constant.

Purchases from East Germany made by the giant mail-order house Quelle dropped last year from 1.3 to 1.1 per cent.

The drop in the dollar exchange rate has had its effect. The results of competition from the Far East can be seen, despite the duty-free advantages East Germany enjoys in trade with West Germany.

East Germany is having to realize that the price factor in consumer durables and goods is not enough to be successful on Western markets. Far East products are way ahead in design, their adjustment to market requirements and delivery dates.

Experts now point out another weakness for East Germany in intra-German trade: big brother Moscow.

The Soviet Union is putting pressure to bear on East Germany to reduce the Soviet deficit in bilateral trade which at the end of 1986 added up to 3.6bn transferable roubles (approximately 44.7bn dollars).

The Russians demand an increase in goods from East Germany and, of all items, those that the East Germans can sell best of all on markets in the West.

It is not surprising then that East Ber-

lin could not fulfill entirely its quotas in intra-German trade. One expert said that their list of suitable items had grown smaller. "They are now having to pay for having neglected the consumer goods sector for so long."

That cannot be changed quickly for, with the decline of exports, East Berlin is now short of hard currency.

According to the West German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) East Germany has always ended up with a foreign trade surplus (since 1982) but this surplus is now appreciably smaller.

In 1986 the surplus amounted to something more than a billion marks (units of account). In the previous year it had been 6.79 billion.

There has already been a reversal in intra-German trade. Between 1960 and 1984 it increased sevenfold. Last year the trade volume dropped to 15.2 billion units of account (1 unit of account = DM1), a decline of nine per cent. If the drop in West German and East German trade was equally spread last year, the trend is now for it to go to East Germany's disadvantage.

In the January-June period of this year East Germany recorded a further drop of nine per cent. West Germany's trade to East Germany stagnated.

This is particularly bitter for East Germany, notably for the exports of consumer goods. The Federal Republic's 20 per cent share of East Germany's exports was second to the Soviet Union (export share of 40 per cent) and the most important among trading partners in the West with 60 per cent of the trade.

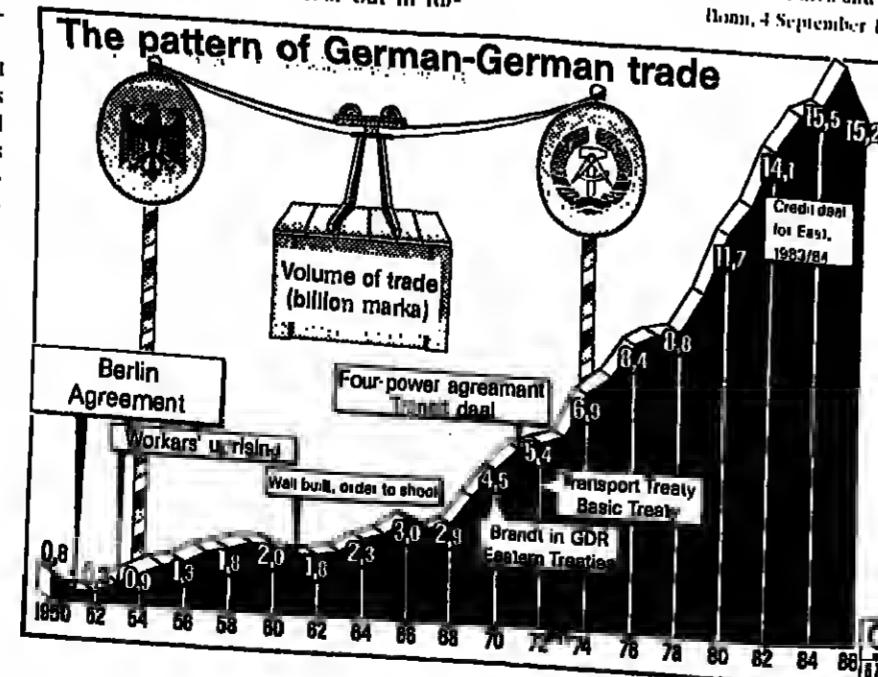
In some trading sectors such as textiles, garments and furniture, the Federal Republic's share was greater.

It is painful when market shares are lost. In 1970 West Germany's imports of garments from East Germany were equal to imports from Yugoslavia. In 1984 they were a little more than a half of Yugoslavia's garments exports to West Germany.

Over the past few years there has also been a considerable increase in processing contracts, notably for the foodstuffs industry, from West German firms.

The greatest success has been achieved, however, by shoe manufacturers Salamander. East Germany is not only the West German shoe industry's best customer but Salamander produces shoes at a number of factories in East Germany for the domestic market, and now has a greater share of the market there than it has in West Germany.

Margarete Chirici
Rheinischer Merkur Clois und Welt,
Bonn, 4 September 1987



pertained to a considerable extent due to the drop in oil prices. There was a drop in Federal Republic purchases last year of 46 per cent.

A DIW study warned of this: "The high surplus and the rapid increase in purchases have given a false picture of East Germany's productivity and the abilities for expansion in trade between the two Germanies."

Critics have always emphasised that intra-German trade could not measure up to that of developed countries.

The most important export items on both sides by a considerable margin are raw materials and consumer goods. Machinery and electro-technology make up only 2% of the Federal Republic's exports to East Germany.

If the signs are not deceptive there is a lot of re-thinking going on in East Berlin. Supplies of West German capital goods recorded by far and away the largest increase last year, 41 per cent. This sector's share in the total trade increased to 27 per cent.

The emphasis was on mechanical equipment for East Germany's consumer goods industry. Parallel to this there was an increase in supplies of consumer goods, notably shoes and garments.

To some extent East Germany has made up for the drop in oil products exports and textiles by greater exports of machinery, electro-technical products, precision engineering and optics.

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A start in this direction has already been made. A production line for Volkswagen engines with a capacity of 200,000 units annually should go into operation next year with 100,000 engines being handed over to VW in payment for the plant.

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There is constant juggling about the Swing when there are difficulties in negotiations between the two states. Things like obstruction to transit traffic going through to West Berlin from West Germany and the increase of obligatory amounts to be exchanged when crossing into East Germany are answered by substantial decisions as to whether this should be re-versed by cancellation of the Swing.

This link-up worked in the 1970s (East Germany cancelled regulations obliging pensioners to exchange specific amounts on visits to East Germany); it is no longer effective in the 1980s after the Swing was reduced.

Then it was brought into play again in 1985 when East Germany halted the flow of asylum-seekers via East Berlin and promptly over DM850m was made available.

East Germany is, through trade with West Germany, a sleeping member of the European Community. Within the context of intra-German trade East Germany can supply goods to other Community countries duty-free and exempt from agricultural levies.

There is an additional protocol to the Treaties of Rome laying down that intra-German trade shall be regarded as internal Community trade.

Rita Knabel-Ullrich
Deutsches Allgemeine Sonnabend
Hamburg, 6 September 1987

Ideology takes back seat to capitalist case

East Germany is very sending its national sovereignty, it seems to be recognised by everyone as a fully fledged independent state.

Yet this does not count for us when it comes to trade with neighbouring West Germany. West Germany is to be strictly foreign in matters of trade.

Between the two Germanys follows separate rules. The B Agreement of 1951 set down the basis for the exchange of goods, see and payments.

Deliveries of West German goods to East Germany and the reverse are regarded as exports in the sense of foreign trade and payments legislation.

Payments are not made in marks on either side, but in units of account. One unit of account corresponds to the purchasing power of one mark.

The units of account are not currentable. East Germany cannot use its budget from SFR, France or Italy. They must be used to obtain goods from West Germany.

There are advantages in intra-German trade for both sides. From the Cold War until the present the Federal Republic has been able to use the flow of goods in the Federal Republic as an "economic lever" over the "material interests" of East German leadership to ease conditions in East Germany.

For East Germany intra-German trade has substantial advantages. It can supply industrial materials and agricultural products, the world has great difficulty disposing elsewhere. It can use barter transactions by supplying industrial goods against consumer goods; and it can balance short-term production bottlenecks in intra-German trade.

A start in this direction has already been made. A production line for Volkswagen engines with a capacity of 200,000 units annually should go into operation next year with 100,000 engines being handed over to VW in payment for the plant.

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All you need," says Willi Hämmerle, co-owner of an Aachen road haulage company, "is to drive once round the customs shed. Then you're abroad." It might not be legal but it has been done for years.

The BDI notes with pleasure, as a minor success in the struggle against the proliferation of freight rates, that since June road haulage rates have been

Frankfurter Rundschau

dates back to the crisis-torn days of the Weimar Republic.

As part of emergency regulations to safeguard the economy a road haulage ordinance was proclaimed on 6 October 1931. Road haulage has been subject to administrative controls ever since.

Every truck operating in long-distance road haulage, as opposed to local carriers, must be licensed. The number of vehicles is subject to a quota. And rates are fixed initially having been pegged to rail freight rates.

The aim of these arrangements was to protect the railways from too keen competition on the roads. It hasn't been a success.

Last year 350 million tonnes of freight, as against 335.6 million in 1986, were carried by road. A mere 277 million tonnes were carried by rail.

Rail freight last year was down nearly six per cent on the previous year, mainly due to recession in the coal and steel industries, which between them account for over half the tonnage of goods carried by rail.

Hauliers say that opening up the market will be a nightmare. French and Dutch firms will undercut them.

German hauliers pay the highest taxes and are subject to the strictest welfare provisions and safety precautions.

Haulage rates are between 10 and 15 per cent higher. The European Commission, in its report to the Council of Ministers, agreed that conditions differed from country to country.

Road tax varies, for instance. Last year a German haulier paid 4,335 Ecu, or DM9,230, in road tax for a 38-tonner. Dutch truckers paid only 1,514 Ecu, or little more than a third of their German competitors' road tax bill.

Fuel costs vary from country to country too. Oil duty per 1,000 litres cost German hauliers 203 Ecu, as against 75 Ecu in the Netherlands.

There are further differences in welfare provisions and technical standards and safety regulations.

BDF officials thus cling to a pledge given by Chancellor Kohl, who assured them that "the transition to a European transport market will depend on elimination of competitive distortion."

Vertrieb BDI's Lippold says the rules are so complicated that they have long ceased to be comprehensible.

So it is, perhaps, no wonder that controls are not always effective. Hauliers and customers are already testing the free market that is officially to be introduced in five years' time.

Some of them are agreeing to terms of contract and, particularly, rates that are not officially prohibited. Loopholes have always existed where trucks cross frontiers.

Trade and industry, as users of the hauliers' services, don't like the current system. "It just has to change," says Michael Lippold of BDI.

His aim is to "eliminate the intolerable discrepancies which have been hurting German industry."

The BDI has for decades been strongly opposed to the serried ranks of German hauliers, whose system of controls

is based on road rather than rail mileage — much to many a haulier's chagrin.

"When branch lines were shut down in, say, the Black Forest," Hammer recalls, "rates were chargeable for distances of 100 or 150km even though towns were only 20km apart."

Those were the days. Road hauliers are now keen to stem the tide of European Community liberalisation, arguing that European competitors would then enjoy unfair advantages.

The BDF's Kreft says German hauliers' costs are between 10 and 15 per cent higher. The European Commission, in its report to the Council of Ministers, agreed that conditions differed from country to country.

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In other words, there will be no liberalisation without harmonisation.

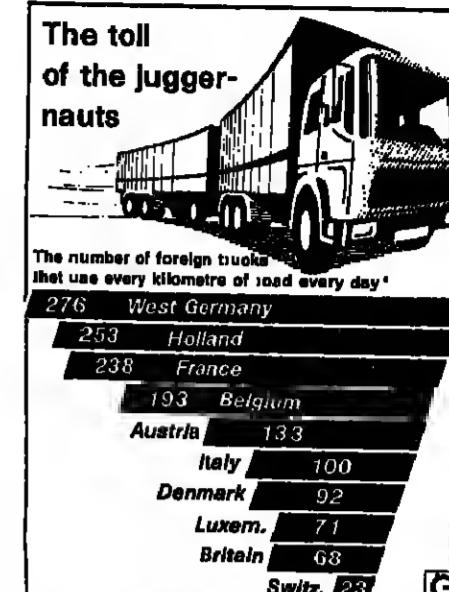
Since the end of June, however, hauliers' confidence in the Federal government has been shaken. On 24/25 June the Council of Transport Ministers approved a further increase in the number of licences for trucks free to trade throughout the European Community.

It was a 54-per-cent increase to 11,535 units.

The Ministers failed to go further than fine words on the competitive disadvantage of well over 10 per cent from which German hauliers suffer.

In agreeing to the Council's decision Bonn Transport Minister Jürgen Warneke had "called the credibility of the Federal government into question."

Herr Warneke is no longer the hauliers' unmitigated bogeyman. On closer scrutiny the BDF noted that he had achieved a limited measure of success in championing their interests.



He had, for instance, successfully challenged the original intention of automatically increasing the number of licences valid throughout the Community

■ ARCHAEOLOGY

South America before Columbus

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Many exhibitions have dealt with Central and South American culture before Christopher Columbus. Most have merely displayed relics without imparting a deep insight into this puzzling culture.

This lack of insight has had the inevitable result of stoking European curiosity: every exhibition about the cultural life of this region before Columbus generates extensive interest.

The latest, from Madrid's Museo de América, is called *Gold und Macht* (Gold and power) and has the ambiguous sub-title, *Spanien in der Neuen Welt* (Spain in the New World).

It has been to Vienna, Budapest and Cologne and is now in Munich.

A special date is coming up which makes the exhibition appropriate: the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America will be celebrated in 1992, if the word "celebrate" is the right one.

Not only Spain but the whole of Europe will look back on 1492 with varying reactions and historical sensitivity.

For the Spaniards the date will be of considerable significance, recalled with varying feelings and reactions. It is the date of the Conquistadores' dreadful descent on the New World and its conquest, the subjugation of the civilisation and its partial eradication.

Spaniards feel at one and the same time a clandestine sense of triumph that remains undimmed in the national consciousness, for at this period Spain triumphed and in the years that followed Spain became the most powerful country in the western world.

West German archaeologists are digging seven metres to unearth what they can of ancient Carthage, now buried under a fashionable suburb of Tunis, capital of Tunisia.

The walls and other finds discovered by the small team, led by Professor Hans Georg Niemeyer of Hamburg University, date from the 8th century BC.

After a long and frightful siege the Romans conquered Carthage, Rome's most dangerous adversary, in 145 BC, razing the city to the ground. The ruins of Carthage, that once ruled the seas, burned for 17 days.

The Greek historian Polybius, who was with the Roman commander, Publius Cornelius Scipio, at the destruction of Carthage, reported that the commander, "did not hide his tears, but openly wept for his enemy."

It was said that Scipio was sunk deep in thought for many hours and he gradually realised that all cities, nations and rulers eventually fell, as it happened to Troy and as it would happen to Rome.

The Romans razed Carthage to the ground, ploughed up the land, scattered salt in the furrows, cursing them. The site was made desolate, never to be settled again.

But the Romans themselves, 100 years later, began to build there again. The city that the Romans established, Colonia Iulia Carthago, was a flourishing city for many hundreds of years.

The antiquities tourists see at the site



Mutilation from *Esmeralda*, 1599, by Adrian Sanchez Galqua, an AC (Alter Columba) exhibit

(Photo: Catalogue)

Spain, now on the periphery of Europe, naturally now looks back with some satisfaction. But Spanish historians know only too well, as do historians of other countries, that this drama was in truth a tragedy, not only for the conquered but the conquerors. From both sides, the exploits of the Conquistadores were tragic adventures. Hundreds of books have been written about this tragedy of the western spirit and we learned about it at school.

The Dominican Bartolome de Las Casas (1474-1566), the most important commissioner for the Indians, was himself a tragic figure. He fought for the Indians' rights and as a consequence made enemies for himself among the powerful.

The emperor Charles V forbade the enslavement of the Indians and so opened the way for bringing in slaves from Black Africa. Las Casas quickly regretted the emperor's action because he saw that slavery was only transferred from one race to another.

Many of the items in the exhibition are first-class objects that the conquerors laid at the feet of their king and which, metaphorically speaking, were splattered with blood.

The exhibition revolves round the exhibits in gold including the famous golden discoveries from the Quimbaya graves. Mural thoughts about these finds do not actually apply since they were discovered 300 years after the Conquistadores, in 1871.

Carthage razed, Carthage raised

of Carthage today are mainly the remains of this Roman settlement.

The destruction meted out by the Roman legions was clear to the German archaeologists. "Three metres down it is possible to see how the piles were beaten down," said Professor Niemeyer after his second dig in Carthage, that ended recently.

A further three metres down the archaeologists came upon archaeological strata. Dating is done mainly from ceramic finds, plates and drinking jars. The finds that are brought to light are similar to the objects found at other sites in West Phoenicia. Dating is confirmed by natural science examination of the finds.

The Tunisian government has declared a part of Ancient Carthage to be an "Archeological Park." A stop was been put to building on the site.

A French-Tunisian team have uncovered houses dating from the time of the commander Hannibal (247-183 BC). Hannibal led an army through Spain, over the Alps and threatened Rome itself.

A British team has done good work

on a site in the harbour. There is some doubt whether the German dig, started in 1986, will continue because of financial problems.

Rudolf Grimm/dpa

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 3 September 1987)

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The exhibits include cult utensils in gold such as receptacles for lime in human shape or like a human hand. Lime was used to chew coca leaves which put the celebrant and the people in a state of euphoria in cult ceremonies.

Other gold objects include pendants in the shape of animals or beautiful filigree decorations for clothing.

Cult masks, seats of stone for cult ceremonies, a lime-stone relief with extremely subtle treatment of the stone, are on show among the pre-Columbus pieces. There are also ceramics and textiles decorated with considerable imagination.

The catalogue includes a detailed description of each exhibit so that the layman, little acquainted with the stylistic characteristics of the various epochs in Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Mexico, is provided with enough information on each object to give some idea of the historical and cultural significance of the individual items.

The interbreeding of the Spanish and the indigenous people, producing mestizos, is shown in the large picture. The groups of figures, which possess the various shades of interbreeding, dramatically create genre pictures.

The picture of the three "Mutilation from Esmeralda," painted in 1599 by Adrian Sanchez Galqua, otherwise known, is very well worth seeing shows runaway slaves in the costume of Spanish grandees, their noses and decorated with golden art objects.

The picture recalls how a column of runaway slaves in Esmeralda, where again subjugated to Spanish domination.

There is a lot about the brutality of the conquerors, but hardly anything of the spiritual and political tragedy of the conquest.

In Cologne the lack of information was countered by a small exhibition which notices about the extermination of the autochthonous peoples.

In Munich, after the intervention of the Spanish embassy, this critical accompanying material has been withdrawn. The exhibition visitor will find no trace of this critical element. There is plenty of reading material dealing with historical and cultural aspects of the catalogue, but there is little suggestion of criticism in the Mundus presentation.

Although the scope of the exhibition has been slightly reduced, it is a major and respectable exhibition, despite the objections mentioned above.

It only gives part of an aspect of the difficulties surrounding 1492.

It is to be hoped that over the next five years additional perspectives will be discovered of the crisis in the European spirit at the change from the Late Middle Ages to the beginning of Modern Times.

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■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Exhaust gases, bulldozers, blamed for Alpine erosion disasters

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Destruction of forests through both aerial pollution and the bulldozer is being blamed for the increasing number of landslides, avalanches and floods in Europe's Alps.

Tree damage means that networks of roots are no longer present to bind together topsoil and prevent erosion.

Motor vehicle emission is regarded as a main cause of aerial pollution, which is said to have damaged 78 per cent of Bavaria's mountain forest area beyond repair.

In other areas, the demand for ski resorts has led to the removal of trees to make way both for ski slopes, chair lifts and off-slope facilities.

The most dramatic disaster was on 28 July when three villages were buried and 30 people died in a landslide in the Veltlin Valley in the Italian Alps.

Earlier in the summer, 23 were killed when debris slid on to their camping site near Anney, in French Savoy.

Two Austrian resorts, the Ötztal and the Stubaital, both remain cut off after landslides. The Stubaital has twice been hit by landslides and flooding.

Landslides, floods, mud and scree avalanches are clear signs that nature is beginning to avenge man's abuse of it.

Friedrich Wilhelm, professor of geography at Munich University, says the disasters should not be called natural disasters: "Man is to blame for these catastrophes all over the Alps."

Alpine biologist Karl Putsché explains the variety of parts the forest plays at high altitudes:

"Forests line Alpine slopes in artificial embankment to serve villages, roads and fields below as a protection from avalanches."

"Forest have extensive root systems which hold the topsoil together and prevent erosion."

Professor Wilhelm explains how forests provide protection from flooding:

"In heavy rainfall forest areas can absorb much more water than barren land; their surface area is larger."

"Pasture can absorb between five and ten per cent of the rainfall, forests up to 100 percent."

Vehicle emission imposes the heaviest burden on the forest, with the crucial role it plays for life in the Alps. In Bavaria 78 per cent of the mountain forest aereage is damaged beyond hope of recovery.

A year ago the figure was 61 per cent. Professor Peter Schütt warns: "If the trend continues, there will not be a single tree of any size anywhere in the Alps in five years."

Trees are also felled by axe and chainsaw where ski runs, lifts, footpaths, Alpine pastures, hotels or holiday estates are planned.

There are 40,000 ski runs and over 12,000 lifts and railways already in the Alps.

Professor Alexander Cernusca of Innsbruck University biology department has spent years probing how dramatically they can increase the risk of landslides and floods.

He says: "Water flows down the runs

into the valley as though they were concrete sections because the soil is compacted by bulldozing in summer and rolling in winter."

Measurements he has made on the Christnau run in Achensee, Austria, show the soil to absorb 10 times less water than adjacent forest topsoil.

A mere 15 millimetres of rainfall is all that is needed to start surface water running downhill, which can fast result in a torrent.

The damage summer holidaymakers can do has also been underestimated.

Fifty million tourists a year tramp round the mountains in summer; that is more than the Alps can withstand.

Every new footprint, any new excursion point, picnic site or restaurant can be the last straw for the ecological balance.

Steep and grassy Alpine slope is normally likely to collapse in a landslide. The turf holds it together.

But the steeper footpath across the slope (it needn't be asphalted) can destroy the surface tension and trigger a landslide during the next downpour.

Mountain roads and footpaths are a bone of contention for environmentalists because they take rainwater down into the valley too fast.

"Every mountain hut nowadays can be reached by car even though it is only intended for use by hikers," says Kurt Reiter, in charge of disaster relief in Zell am See, Bavaria.

"These roads and forest paths are transformed into torrential waterfalls down which rain can plunge into the valley."

The cardinal sin, Professor Wilhelm says, is irresponsible development of previously uninhabited mountain areas.

"People who lived in the mountain valleys for centuries knew why they didn't settle in certain places," he says. "They knew landslides occurred there in summer and avalanches in winter."

Stubaier is an example. Local residents and their many holidaymakers

and weekend visitors had no difficulty with such risks until the early 1980s. The 518 hectares of valley were threatened by 25 avalanche areas, six streams that could be transformed into torrents in heavy rainfall and three combinations of the two. But local people knew of the dangers of flooding and falling scree and built houses only where they knew they safely nestled in the lee of the forest. With a view to ensuring the retention of forest preserves these areas were zoned in the 1979 local development plan. In the valley no building was permitted in red zones, while safety precautions such as thicker walls were prescribed in yellow zones.

But a rash of hotels, boarding houses and holiday homes was built in Stubaital and all over the Alps, coming ever closer to and encroaching on the red zones — with the resulting landslides.

Local authorities ignored the loose soil and scree in the hills and concentrated on tourist revenue in the valleys. They must now learn their lesson the hard way.

Changes in agricultural structure have had serious consequences in the Alps. More and more Alpine pasture was used because meadows were no longer available in the valleys. Farmers felled timber to provide the extra acreage.

Will our growth-oriented society prepared to foot this bill to save the Alps as we know them?



Chart shows part of the Bevian Allgäu. Dots denote threatened valleys and the arrows the direction of floodwaters and scree.

(Foto: DPA: Raimo Stachow)

guaranteed and it is, above all, unfriendly expensive.

Professor Lutz Wieke of the Environmental Protection Agency, Berlin, has cost the exercise. Flood prevention will, he says, cost DM1bn, plus a further DM50m for controlling mountain streams and preventing landslides and erosion.

Water purification will cost DM50m

year because the quality of water leaves a lot to be desired.

Protecting roads from landslides and avalanches will cost DM2.8m per kilometre.

Professor Wieke estimates the total end-

estimate operations for the Alps at DM5.8m a year, not including the cost of forest damage and tourist revenue forfeited.

There must be no encroachments whatever in these red zones.

The Natura 2000 feels a total ban must be imposed on new skiing areas and on new man-made runs, while existing facilities must be reclaimed and re-cultivated.

There is little point in taking the touristic at altitudes above 1,600 metres.

However, descents must only be permitted when there is at least 25cm to 30cm of snow.

Environmentally conscious skiers must be guided by a "seal of environmental quality" that might arguably be awarded to operators of ski runs. A preparatory conference is being held by the DNR in Wildensteiner Hohe Buche, near Schwäbisch Hall.

Experts and sports representatives have been invited to attend. They will discuss the use of the countryside for sport under the heading "From Hard to Soft Sport."

(dpa)

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich)

4 September 1987

Immediate ban on building ski runs urged

equipment, but forests were cleared and topsoil washed away in the process.

The catastrophic consequence was that in heavy rainfall, or if the snow melted suddenly, ski runs were transformed into torrential waterfalls, causing unprecedented flooding.

In heavy rain up to one third of the rainfall is absorbed in the treecops of a mixed forest, while soil quality and quantity also affect the amount of water absorbed.

They in turn affected the extent of soil erosion, especially on steep slopes.

Herr Röscheisen admitted that skiing was a cornerstone of the tourist trade in the Alps. He said that the Deutscher Alpenverein was to co-sponsor a conference to be held in Lindau on Lake Constance next April.

An attempt was to be made at this conference to draw up a legally binding Alpine protection convention to be

signed by neighbouring states. Priority must be given to zoning extensive inter-linked conservation areas to protect ecologically valuable or endangered biotopes throughout the region.

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(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich)

4 September 1987

■ SOCIETY

Purpose-built village aims to help assimilate mentally handicapped

DIE WELT
INTERNATIONALE TAGESSCHAU FÜR DIE WELT

own," he says. He is a Western fan and doesn't want to miss the screen action.

Two other tenants live in their house and might want to see a different programme on TV. This problem need not then arise.

It is far from a matter of course that handicapped people such as Alfred Nitschke and Elisabeth Biel are allowed to live together. Marriage between handicapped persons is, for instance, illegal.

"Yet no-one has the right to refuse them companionship and sexuality," says Rev. Hildemann, outlining his therapeutic approach. "I'm just not interested in official Church problems in this context."

A

group of four with their therapists live in a lounge, kitchen, bathroom, two single rooms and a double.

Unlike conventional homes, the two-storey buildings for tenants who will, for the most part, be elderly handicapped people will not consist mainly of long and gloomy corridors. All rooms open into the lounge.

As a welfare organisation the Flieder-Werk is not entitled to apply for housing construction grants and then to rent accommodation to non-handicapped people.

But that, of course, is the basis of the entire concept. "Legislative clarification is urgently needed on this point," he says.

They meet each other at a Flieder-Werk home and were engaged at a summer fete. They used to live strictly separated in single rooms; they will now share a living room, bedroom and bathroom.

They can decorate their new home just as they like. "I want a TV of my

lives with healthy people they are to be enabled to lead more normal lives.

Healthy people who live alongside the handicapped should be better able to come to terms with suppressed fears of sickness and death.

Total integration is not the objective, Rev. Hildemann adds. Many handicapped people don't want it, as is shown by the waiting list for homes in The Village.

There is none for rooms in shared apartments of the kind where handicapped people live nearly everywhere, both in Germany and in countries such as Britain and Sweden.

Strength of character is needed to hold your own in a shared apartment. "Social isolation is too widespread," Rev. Hildemann says.

So he prefers what might arguably be an artificial atmosphere in which socially committed people are prepared to meet the handicapped halfway.

The summer fete will be an initial opportunity, enabling "Villagers" to get to know each other on a friendly and informal basis.

They have all previously met other members of the prospective community in the course of interviews with Flieder-Werk staff.

There are unlikely to be problems with local people in Selbeck, an old colliery estate on the outskirts of Mülheim. Old and handicapped people have lived in Selbeck since the end of the war.

It is handy that people there are used to dealing with the handicapped," Frau Komina says. "They will have no misgivings about The Village and readily accept their new neighbours."

And, she adds: "Jessica is sure to have no difficulty in making new friends there."

M. Schlingensiepen

(Die Welt, Berlin, 1 September 1987)

A deaf doctor heads project to help deaf

Inge Richter is the only deaf doctor in Germany specialising in neurology and psychiatry.

Dr Richter, 33, has been deaf from birth. Because she has never heard words spoken, she has had to learn to speak artificially. Speech for her, as for all people deaf from birth, is an artificial thing.

Handicapped people react spontaneously. They show their feelings immediately. They are the ones who are normal, not us in our social straitjackets," says father Ilijas Komina.

Rev. Klaus Hildemann sees life in The Village as "therapy for both sides." The project's name was chosen as a programme: that of reverting to a more natural, rural way of life.

She doesn't want to fuel other deaf people's unrealistic hopes. She knows that the deaf soon come up against their limits.

She wanted to study medicine at an early age, but her parents were against the idea. They didn't want her to be disabled.

"A doctor must be able to hear his patients," her father warned her. Almost daily he pried her with newspaper clippings about rejected applicants for medical college.

But Munich-born Inge had staying power. She was admitted to medical college and went through torture people with normal hearing cannot possibly imagine.

She was one of 400 students. They all had normal hearing, as did the teaching staff, but most of them mumbled.

Walls all over the house, even in the bathroom, were papered with photocopies of textbooks and lecture notes.

She passed her intermediate exam on schedule after four semesters, then set

about her PhD thesis, helped and encouraged by her Doktorvater, Professor Gabriele Full-Scharrer.

Prejudice and incomprehension continued to confront her as an intern. Life wasn't made easier for her; she was expected to be better than average. The handicapped usually are.

She graduated in 1981 and failed to find a job. Her first job, in 1984, was at the Ansbach district hospital, a psychiatric clinic that hit the headlines in connection with drug experiments on patients.

For the past year she has worked in what she says are ideal conditions in the district psychiatric clinic in Erlangen.

She and the head of the clinic, Professor Dr Holger-Kurt Schneider, have ambitious plans. Twenty-five mentally ill deaf patients are to be taken in and treated with a view to enabling them to return to normal, outside life.

A team of 26 specialists — doctors, therapists, nursing staff, social workers and deaf and dumb teachers — look after the patients round the clock in what is a pilot project for south Germany.

Inge Richter is in charge of the project. As a deaf person herself she is clearly in a position to establish a special rapport with patients.

"I can tell them home truths they wouldn't accept from others," she says, "such as: 'You're deaf, you're going to stay deaf

■ HORIZONS

Youthful trend towards free-loading

More and more young people are living at home without contributing to the household although they are wage-earners.

Brigitte Krömer, head of the central office for efficient house-keeping in Bonn, said: "Children are now less prepared to make an appropriate contribution to house-keeping costs."

The analysis of families who sought advice from the Bonn office last year, shows that 28 per cent of young people who are wage-earners but live with their parents do not pay a penny to the house-keeping.

The survey showed that 47 per cent paid less than DM300 per month for their board and lodging, only 25 per cent paid more.

Consultations with parents revealed that they did not bring up the question of contributing to the household with their sons and daughters for fear they would leave home. Young people did in fact make this threat to their parents.

The Bonn organisation, that was commissioned to carry out the survey by the German girls and savings banks association, advises parents that they should always insist that their children should make an appropriate contribution to the house-keeping when their sons and daughters were working and earning.

Brigitte Krömer said: "Young people have to learn how to pay their way. But they can't do it if they have no idea about the costs of accommodation, heating, electricity, telephone, water and the various other items of house-keeping."

Parents should frankly discuss with their children the costs of running the home, she said, and agree with them on the contribution they should make to it.

Brigitte Krömer advises parents who do not have to rely on a contribution to the house-keeping from their children to open a savings account.

"Perhaps they should open an account and put the children's contribution to the home in their savings. There are, anyway, many families with children who have DM1,000 and more in take-home pay and they do not pay anything, while their mothers do not even

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Young volunteers leave trail of international good will

Every year, 11,000 young West Germans go out and work on community, church or charitable projects in Germany or somewhere overseas.

They build children's playgrounds in Berlin, tend graves in Israel, build churches in Africa and help the handicapped in India.

Franz Krömer said: "If family members pay for their personal items from the house-keeping it is impossible to keep a control on this kind of expenditure in the household budget. For this reason we are of the view that it is much better if everyone has a fixed amount of pocket money."

Franz Krömer said that it is the rule among most families now for children, when they reach the age of six, to have pocket money.

She continued: "The proportion of men who have fixed pocket money is twice as great as women. Women more often than not have to take their pocket money from the house-keeping, which often gives them a bad conscience."

"Then women have to do without pocket money if something untoward crops up that has to be paid for from the house-keeping," she said.

Only 40 per cent of the households that turned to the Bonn office for advice last year could not manage with their income. Sixty per cent wanted to know how they could do more with their income.

The ear cost DM200 per month in the case of 60 per cent of the families advised by the Bonn office, and 59 per cent paid over DM500 for house rent.

In 60 per cent of cases electricity, gas and water cost more than DM100 per month. Fifty-six per cent of those advised saved at least DM100 per month.

Hans Zimmermann

Bundeszentrale Zeitung, 11 August 1987

Chinese pupils travel across Siberia to reach Germany

Ten pupils between the ages of 15 and 17 travelled for eight days on the Trans-Siberian Railway from Shanghai, through Russia, and then on through Poland and East Germany to come to Hamburg to take part in a school-exchange programme.

Never before has there been a school exchange programme between China and Europe. It began in May when 10 pupils from Hamburg who had been learning Chinese since 1985 visited Shanghai.

Three Hamburg schools offered the language course in study groups. The arrangements for the first school exchange programme were agreed when

the mayors of Hamburg and Shanghai, both major ports, signed a friendship agreement in 1986.

The Chinese guests had three weeks to gain some impressions of life in Germany, whose language they had been learning for four years in Shanghai.

Their good knowledge of the language and their skilful use of it showed how intensive their teaching in Shanghai had been.

Ying Chuchong, who had attended the respected foreign language school in Shanghai, explained: "Schoolboys and girls laugh and chat during lessons here. That would not happen in China. That would be impolite to the teachers. Here you don't learn in such a concentrated way."

The guests unanimously said that more was learned at home. They were impressed by many things in Hamburg, the parks, the many flowers, the colourful houses, the piney undergrowth and houses and the lack of crowds that are usual in Shanghai.

Shanghai, with a population of 11 million, is the largest city in China. Ren Hua praised the salesgirls and men in Hamburg shops. She said: "They are all very nice and friendly. They ask if they can help. It's not always like that in Shanghai."

Jian Fuliang, deputy head of Shanghai's educational authorities, who took charge of the group on their trip to Hamburg, hopes that this "great experience" is just a beginning, that school exchange programmes between China and West Germany will become a regular event.

One young man wrote: "... many join the community without having had many friends and here they lose their friendlessness."

Barbara Frimanns

Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 August 1987

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General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 29 August 1987

■ GOURMET'S CORNER

Chipped, mashed, boiled, baked, fried: the spud has a violent history

DIE ZEIT

The humble potato is still an essential part of German meals in spite of the advance of other vegetables and an unfair reputation for making the eater fat.

Legend has it that the potato was discovered by Don Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada as he searched for El Dorado. He dreamed of coastlines awash with golden eggs, from bays studded with pearls, mountains shimmering with emeralds and from forests smelling of cinnamon.

In 1537, he reached the settlement of Sorocoto high up in the Andes full of hope but found that it smelled of nothing and that the Indians weren't sowing gold out of the dust. All that came out of the ground was *papas Pernambuco*, "farcaceous roots with a nice taste."

If it was de Quesada or someone else who brought the tuber into the kitchens of Europe is something that potato experts are undecided about.

For many years it was believed that Sir Francis Drake was responsible. The privateer in the service of Queen Elizabeth I, who discovered and exploited the silver mines of Potosí (Potosí, in modern-day Bolivia, became the site of the leading silver mines in the Spanish empire in the 16th and 17th centuries) is said to have taken potatoes on board as food for the crew and brought them back to England.

At least, they used to be convinced of this in Offenburg, south Germany, so much so that, in 1853, they built a stone statue of Sir Francis with a flowering potato plant in his hand and a frieze portraying potatoes and a quote referring to the vegetable being delivered from God to rescue the hungry in times of famine.

The statue was destroyed during the Third Reich. The potato was a "genuine German people's food" then in no way could have possibly been introduced by a member of the English enemy.

Drake made it possible for the mussels to fill their bellies. This made them less likely to rebel, which pleased the rulers. Heinrich Heine, the poet and philosopher, mocked: "Luther shocked Germany — but Drake calmed it again. He gave us the potato."

Sir Walter Raleigh, a contemporary of Drake, is also credited with having brought the potato. He was also meant to have delivered El Dorado to his queen, but instead returned with a cargo of feathers, mineral samples and potato.

He is said to have advised: "Plant it in your garden. It produces a wonderful blooming blue-white plant, the fruit of which you can eat."

A friend of Sir Walter followed the advice, had the tubers planted and arranged an exotic banquet. The cook spent days trying to prepare the potato, but it remained bitter. The man became angry and wanted to sack the gardener.

As the guests were chewing into the bitter repast, the man stormed outside and discovered the gardener doing what he had been told to do — burning the remains of the potato. But he was also eating the root part. The smell of it burning had been irresistible and he had bravely taken a bite. It was good.

The gardener had, by accident, discovered that it was that part of the potato that grew below the ground which was the edible part. The guests were eat-

able was poisonous and that it caused gout, anaemia and leprosy.

When Friedrich the Great sent potatoes to the hungry at the siege of Kolberg, the people protested strongly despite their hunger. "These things have neither smell nor taste. Not even the dogs will eat them."

But Frederick the Great was determined. In 1756 he ordered farmers to plant potatoes.

The broadening of the potato's popularity was welcomed by the upper reaches of society. Its consumption caused flatulence, something that worried them. That sort of thing was all right for the working classes, but for us, old boy?

The French Grande Encyclopédie said in 1765: "What is a bit of wind whistling through the healthy bowels of peasants and other working folk?"

As Parmentier was carried through the streets of Paris as a benefactor of mankind during the French Revolution, he drew protests. "He just wants us to eat potato. It's his invention."

Today, the French are not as big potato eaters as the Germans, but they have been no less quick to use it in emergencies. In the First World War, the French Ministry of Agriculture stuck placards on advertising columns featuring a soldier staring with longing at a potato field. The text said: "Sow potatoes for the soldiers and for France." In Germany, it was: "Harvest more potatoes. The German potato must heat England."

German authority Hans Siebenrock lists 20,000 varieties. Enthusiastic eaters are in good company: Napoleon's Josephine (Yes, tonight); Kaiser Wilhelm (mashed, please); and Goethe. Goethe extolled the potato's virtues in a verse and recommended its daily consumption.

Gabriele von Arnim
(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 4 September 1987)

and soaked in olive oil. 2: take the bread and place everything on it. 3: eat.

If you want to be a little more adventurous and don't want to go out and buy another cookbook, try this: beat the garlic together with parsley, rosemary, tarragon and thyme. This mixture is enough to give poultry and stews a little more flair.

To impart almost any salad with a touch of the extra special, a garlic clove should be rubbed or pressed on the plate.

Or for a joint of lamb: marinate the leg for two days in a mixture of olive oil, sherry, lemon juice, parsley, rosemary and, of course, garlic. Then cook. And stand back and watch the rush (no, it's not away from it).

The festival is offering lots of chances to discuss the health-giving properties of garlic, a quality that was praised by Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder, who died 79 BC in the destruction of Pompeii.

The proceeds from the festival are all going to a charity to help in Ethiopia, in which actor Karlheinz Böhm has an active role.

So what will happen if there are any non-garlic-eaters left in Darmstadt? Will they keel over under the onslaught? No, says one participant; garlic "doesn't stink. It is fragrant."

Lothar K. Frost
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 22 August 1987)

French health system, he decided to make the potato a food for the people. He asked: What is the use of people learning all about the transit of the stars when they are hungry all the time?

But resistance was so strong that Parmentier was driven to using a ruse. He had gendarmes watch over fields he had planted with potatoes, and he watched happily as temptation did its job and people stole the forbidden fruit by night. So, the potato came to the people.